

Application No.: 10/815,149
Amdt dated: January 27, 2011
Reply to Office action of October 27, 2010

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A single clip jaw assembly adapted for use with a handle assembly having at least one handle and defining a central longitudinal axis in a surgical clip applier, comprising:

a pair of jaws adapted to receive a surgical clip, the jaws being movable between an open state and a closed state;

a pair of elongate support arms each adapted to support an associated one of the jaws between the open state of the jaws and the closed state of the jaws;

a bridge disposed between the support arms to hold the jaws in an aligned relationship between the open state and the closed state;

a housing disposed over at least the bridge, the housing having a generally fixed relationship with the bridge while permitting movement of the jaws between the open state and the closed state, and the housing having no clip loading mechanism housed therein; and

a coupling included in the housing, the coupling being adapted for removably attaching the housing to the handle assembly to an operative disposition such that the housing is rotationally fixed with respect to the at least one handle of the handle assembly about the central longitudinal axis;

wherein the jaw assembly is configured to receive only a single surgical clip at a time, and the pair of jaws is adapted to receive a surgical clip exteriorly of the jaw assembly.

11. (Original) The jaw assembly recited in Claim 10, wherein:
the jaws, the support arms, and the bridge are integral and form a jaw component.

12. (Previously presented) The jaw assembly recited in Claim 11, wherein the housing is molded over the bridge of the jaw component.

13 (Original) The jaw assembly recited in Claim 10, wherein the arms are resilient between the open position of the jaws and the closed position of the jaws.

14. (Original) The jaw assembly recited in Claim 13, wherein at least one of the arms is biased to maintain the jaws in the open position.

15. (Original) The jaw assembly recited in Claim 10 wherein:

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the arms are disposed generally in a plane separating a first side of the arms from a second side of the arms; and

the housing is disposed with first portions adjacent the first side of the arms and second portions adjacent the second side of the arms.

16. (Original) The jaw assembly recited in Claim 15, wherein the second portions of the housing are included in the coupling.

17. (Original) The jaw assembly recited in Claim 15, wherein the jaws are movable in the plane between the open state and the closed state.

18. (Original) The jaw assembly recited in Claim 17, wherein the arms are in contact with only the first portions of the housing and the second portions of the housing when the jaws are in the closed position.

19-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The jaw assembly recited in Claim 10, wherein the coupling comprises a first mounting stub configured to be received by a mounting aperture of the handle assembly.

25. (Previously presented) The jaw assembly recited in Claim 24, wherein the coupling further comprises a second mounting stub configured to be received by a second mounting aperture of the handle assembly.

26. (Previously presented) The jaw assembly recited in Claim 24, wherein the first mounting stub is substantially identical to a mounting stub on a multiple-clip cartridge such that the jaw assembly can be used on a handle configured for use with a multiple-clip cartridge.

27. (Previously presented) The jaw assembly recited in Claim 10, wherein the housing has a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end of the housing comprising an opening, and wherein the support arms and bridge are positioned within the housing such that the support arms extend through the opening in the distal end of the housing, and the bridge is housed by the housing adjacent the proximal end.

28. (Previously presented) The jaw assembly recited in Claim 10, wherein no surgical clips are received into the housing.

29. (Previously presented) The jaw assembly recited in Claim 10, wherein the housing has a proximal end and a distal end and an axis extending from the proximal end to the distal end, and wherein the coupling protrudes from the housing in a direction transverse to the axis.